

**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
December 16, 2016**

PRESENT

Dr. Carol Deel, LCMFT, LCPC, *Board Chair*
Ms. Susan Tangires, LCPC, LCADC, *Vice Chair*
Ms. Candice Richardson-Dickens, LCPC, LCADC, *Secretary*
Dr. Lorraine Garcia, LCPC
Ms. Linda Allen-Benton, LCMFT
Ms. Risa Ganel, LCMFT
Ms. Anna deJong, LCPC, LCADC
Ms. Marcia Mityga, LCADC
Ms. Amanda Bechtel, LCPC, LCPAT
Ms. Meena Gupta, *Consumer Member*
Dr. Sara Carlton, *Consumer Member*

NON-BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Tracey DeShields, Executive Director
Ms. Frances Cipriotti, Executive Assistant
Mr. Ari Elbaum, Board Counsel
Ms. Anna Sullivan, Administrative Officer
Ms. Janice Isaac, Administrative Specialist

PUBLIC ATTENDEES

Ms. Kristen Neville, Boards and Commissions
Ms. Elizabeth Hlaveck, *Former Art Therapy Board Member*
Mr. Willie Harris, Lobbyist, AAMFT
Mr. Howard Ashkin, MATOD and Medmark
Ms. Michelle Darling, BHA

MEETING

- 10:45 Dr. Carol Deel called the Open Session to order. The minutes from November 18, 2016 meeting were reviewed. The meeting has a quorum of the Board.
- 10:47 Ms. Risa Ganel made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Marcia Mityga to accept the minutes as presented. The motion carried with three abstentions from Ms. Candice Richardson-Dickens, Ms. Amanda Bechtel, and Dr. Lorraine Garcia.
- 10:50 Credential Committee Report – Ms. Candice Richardson-Dickens
- Total of 143 applications came in since the last Board meeting.
 - 9 Alcohol and Drug, 14 Alcohol and Drug Trainees, 110 Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family. No Art Therapy applications and 10 Behavior Analyst applications.

10:52 Regulations and Legislative Committee report – Dr. Carol Deel and Ms. Tracey DeShields

- According Ms. DeShields, the committee met with MATOG and MADC to discuss concerns about the application process and trainees. Since the law now requires an internship course for certification or licensure, the concern is for people who have already graduated and were not required to have an internship and this has become a barrier. The Board at this time cannot submit any legislative changes. Other groups would have to submit changes.
- According to Dr. Deel, the Committee is continuing to working on Chapter 14 and Chapter 15 of the regulations and is close to completion. Dr. Deel expects that the committee will be finished by March 2017 meeting.
- Ms. DeShields noted that the Board voted on the proposal to require the Medication Assistant Treatment CEU workshop for all Alcohol and Drug Counselors and Approved Supervisors every four years. To implement this workshop the Board will follow up with the Behavior Health Administration to discuss the timeframe for when this workshop requirement will go into effect.

10:57 Update on Behavior Analysts

- The Behavioral Analysts will have their regulations published in the Maryland Registry for a 30-day public comment period beginning in January.
- Currently there are 285 LBA's and the LBA's who were licensed in 2015 are completing their first renewal.
- There were concerns from the education community and the Behavior Analysts advisory committee about requiring licensure for practicing Behavioral Analysis and what the expectations are when providing the services in a school setting.
- The advisory committee plans on discussing their concerns with the representative from the Maryland Department of Education.
- The meeting schedule for the Behavioral Analysts may change from once a month to every other month.

11:00 Update on Renewal- Ms. Tracey DeShields

- The current renewal period ends on January 31, 2017 and those who do not renew by that date will have to reinstate their credential.
- This is also the first renewal where only credit card payments are accepted. Also, this is the first renewal where applicants who did their background check on the last renewal would not have to do another background check for another 6 years.

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- Ms. DeShields noted that there is a proposed program called RAPBACK that will immediately notify agencies of a criminal activity and moving forward may not require agencies to do a background check as often. The statute would have to change in order for the Board to adopt this program as part of the criminal history records check process. So far, the renewal period is running smoothly.

11:05 Law Test - Tracey DeShields

- Ms. DeShields continues to work with the NBCC (National Board of Certified Counselors) on having them to administer the exam and people can go to different testing sites. More information about the progress of this transition will be discussed by Ms. DeShields on the January 2017 Board meeting.

11:07 Former Art Therapy Board member Ms. Elizabeth Hlaveck was presented with an award for participation in the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists an award for appreciation for being the chair of the Ethics committee for the Board.

11:09 Ms. DeShields noted that the new DHMH Health Secretary is Mr. Dennis Schrader who succeeds former Secretary Van Mitchell who resigned.

11:10 Dr. Deel noted that Mr. Ronald Narain, former Alcohol and Drug Board member resigned and was not able to make the award presentation at this Board meeting.

11:12 Public Comment: A request was to include more information about the Credentials Committee report which may be beneficial to applicants and providers.

11:15 Open Session Adjourned